

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7877
INFO USDOE WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4652

VIENNA FOR USIAEA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, MNVC, PARM, BR
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S VISIT TO BRAZIL -- HIGHLIGHTS OF
FIRST DAY DISCUSSIONS

REF: STATE 138034

1. SUMMARY. PURSUANT TO BRAZIL US AGREEMENT THAT SMITH
REVIEW RELATION OF NEW US LEGISLATION TO NUCLEAR COOPERATION,
USDEL REVIEWED PERTINENT PROVISIONS AND NEED FOR CERTAIN
CLARIFICATIONS. BRAZIL OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION
OF USING US SUPPLY FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES AND APPEARED WILLING
TO GIVE FURTHER WRITTEN CLARIFICATION OF NO-PNE PLEDGE AS WELL
AS PHYSICAL SECURITY ASSURANCES UNDER IMMEDIATELY APPLICABLE
EXPORT CRITERIA. THEY RAISED NO OBJECTION TO US INTERPRETATION
OF JOINT DETERMINATION PROVISION OF AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION
AS EQUIVALENT TO US CONSENT REQUIREMENT ON REPROCESSING OF
US-ORIGIN FUEL. THEY SEEMED RELIEVED THAT LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE
NPT-STYLE COMMITMENT TO FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AS ADDITIONAL
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CONDITION AND STATED GOB INTENT TO CONTINUE DE FACTO COMPRE-
HENSIVE SAFEGUARDS ON ALL NUCLEAR FACILITIES. THEY REITERATED
POLICY OF COMPLETE URANIUM FUEL CYCLE IMPLEMENTATION
AND CONSIDER POSSIBLE THORIUM SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AS ADJUNCT, NOT
SUBSTITUTE, FOR URANIUM CYCLE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY, UNDERLAIN WITH SOME APPREHENSION

ON BRAZIL SIDE, SMITH INTRODUCED DISCUSSION OF NEW LEGISLATION WITH STATEMENT OF US INTEREST IN CONTINUATION OF COOPERATION. GENERAL BRAZILIAN POSTURE WAS RECEPTIVE.

3. SECTION 127 IMMEDIATE CRITERIA WERE REVIEWED IN CONTEXT OF PRESENT US-BRAZIL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND BRAZILIAN SITUATION. MOST SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS WERE:

(A) MINISTER SILVEIRA AND OTHERS STATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT GOB HAD CHANGED POSITION SINCE TLAELOLCO TREATY SIGNING AND 1972 US-BRAZIL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION, WOULD NOT USE ANY US NUCLEAR SUPPLY FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AND NO LONGER HAS ANY INTEREST IN DEVELOPING OR USING PNEs. GOB APPARENTLY WILLING TO GIVE FURTHER WRITTEN CLARIFICATION OF NO-PNE PLEDGE REFLECTING SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT IN BRAZIL/FRG/IAEA TRILATERAL. IN AFTERNOON TECHNICAL SESSION BRAZILIANS ASKED WHAT FORM CLARIFICATION OF PNE ISSUE SHOULD TAKE. WE SAID THERE WERE A VARIETY OF WAYS AND SUGGESTED A NOTE.

(B) GOB MADE NO OBJECTION TO USDEL INTERPRETATION THAT PRESENT AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION (A FOR C) REQUIREMENT FOR JOINT DETERMINATION CONCERNING FACILITIES IN WHICH REPROCESSING OR ALTERATION OF US-SUPPLIED FUEL WOULD BE PERFORMED WAS EQUIVALENT TO US RIGHT OF CONSENT OVER SUCH REPROCESSING OR ALTERATION.

(C) BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS SAID GOB HAD RECENTLY ENACTED LAW ESTABLISHING PHYSICAL SECURITY REGULATIONS IN CONFORMANCE WITH IWF/CIRC/225/REV. 1 AND THEREFORE ASSURANCE TO USG ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION SHOULD NOT PRESENT ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM.
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4. ON LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT FOR DE FACTO COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS ON ALL NUCLEAR FACILITIES AT TIME OF US EXPORT, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA EXPRESSED BRAZIL'S INTENT TO MAINTAIN SAFEGUARDS ON ALL NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND HE INTERPRETED THIS TO INCLUDE RESEARCH FACILITIES.

5. USDEL POINTED OUT LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT TO RENEGOTIATE A FOR C IN CONTEXT OF CONTINUED COOPERATION -- GOB CATEGORIZED ANY BRAZILIAN RENEGOTIATION DECISION AS "HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL DECISION" NOT YET TAKEN AND CONSIDERED PRESENT A FOR C "SACROSANCT", EVEN WHEN POSSIBILITY OF NEW NUCLEAR COOPERATION WAS RAISED.

6. SMITH REVIEWED TITLE I MULTILATERAL ASPECTS OF NEW LEGISLATION INCLUDING INFCE. BRAZILIAN SIDE AGREED THAT INFCE WAS POSITIVE EFFORT AND THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT IT BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 1979. CARVALHO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT NEW MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES SUCH AS INFCE NOT FURTHER UNDERMINE IAEA, AS HE BELIEVES NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP HAD.

7. WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CATEGORICAL IN MAINTAINING BRAZIL'S POSITION ON NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE INDEPENDENCE HE WAS EQUALLY EMPHATIC IN STATING "WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE ALL KINDS OF ASSURANCES IN RENOUNCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

8. BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS REITERATED COMMITMENT TO FULL URANIUM

FUEL-CYCLE, ARGUING THAT BRAZIL'S FUTURE STATURE AND NEEDS FULLY JUSTIFY THIS POSITION. SILVEIRA ADDED THAT GOB SAW NO REASON TO ALTER THIS VIEW ON BASIS OF THORIUM SYSTEM POSSIBILITIES (ON WHICH THEY WERE WELL-INFORMED AND WORKING ACTIVELY WITH FRG) WHICH MIGHT BECOME MORE IMPORTANT IN LONGER TERM (10-15 YEARS FUTURE) HOWEVER THEY SAW SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND NON-PROLIFERATION DIFFICULTIES SIMILAR TO USE OF PLUTONIUM. 9. AFTERNOON TECHNICAL SESSION ALSO COVERED TOPICS OF RESEARCH REACTOR FUEL SUPPLY, PHYSICAL SECURITY AND NEW TYPE US FUEL SUPPLY CONTRACTS. REPORTING CABLE ON TECHNICAL SESSION FOLLOWS:

10. TEXT OF AGREED PRESS STATEMENT IN SEPTTEL. BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO MAKE FURTHER PNE AND PHYSICAL SECURITY CLARIFICATIONS IS NOT REFLECTED IN STATEMENT BECAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMAL BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION REQUIRED TO SEND SUCH WRITTEN COMMUNICATION, WHICH WOULD TAKE TIME ACCORDING TO BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS. SAYRE

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